

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE — VETOING  
SENATE BILL NO. 54.

Governor's Office,  
Austin, Texas, March 24, 1913.

To the Senate:

I return herewith, without approval, Senate bill No. 54, the same being

"An Act providing for the regulation and control of hospitals maintained or established or conducted by means of funds derived from the deduction from the wages of or collections from the employes of railway companies or receivers thereof, providing that the collections or possessors of such funds and property in which such funds have been invested shall be trustees thereof for the benefit of such employes, and providing for the selection of the members of the boards for the management of such hospitals, and for the powers of such boards, for the free transportation of sick and injured employes to and from such hospitals, and fixing penalties for violation, and providing for the collection of such penalties, and providing an emergency."

On March 19 I sent to the Senate a message pointing out objections to this measure, one of which is that it provides for the election of nine directors, six of whom are to be chosen by the employes of the railway company and to be selected by an election to be held at terminals of such railway company. It has been made to fairly appear that a very considerable majority, perhaps as much as eighty per cent of all the employes of railway companies belong to what is known as the unorganized class of laborers; that these are in the main far removed from terminals, and contribute the greater portion of the expense of maintaining these hospitals and would have practically no voice in the selection of directors to represent them if the holding of an election for same was confined to terminal points.

I suggested that this provision be amended so as to provide for the election, at some given time, of the directors to represent the employes, on some general pay day at which time every employe of the company could exercise an equal voice and determine who should be his representatives on the board of hospital control. I suggested further

that the employes of the railway company should have an equal number of representatives on the boards of control, and that these representatives of the company and the employes, acting together, should select an additional member who should be neither an employe or connected with the railway company. This, it seems to me, ought to insure fair management and just treatment to all concerned.

Objection was further made to Section 9 of the bill which would make a railway company, furnishing hospital service at its own expense and free of cost to its employes, liable for all oversights or shortcomings, or alleged errors and mistakes of nurses and surgeons.

If the Legislature could have seen its way clear to meet these objections, I think the bill would have been helpful to both sides. This is the last day upon which I have to consider this measure, under the Constitution. The bill not having been recalled for further consideration, I return it herewith without approval for the reasons above given.

Respectfully submitted,

O. B. COLQUITT,  
Governor of Texas.